

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EGEN, ETRD, ASEC, UR, US

SUBJECT:RELOCATION OF INTOURIST OFFICES

REF: STATE 36651

1. TREPYKHALIN OF SOVIET EMBASSY CALLED ON EUR/SOV (EDGAR),
FEBRUARY 24, TO COMPLAIN ORALLY THAT DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET
APPROVED INTOURIST'S REQUEST TO RELOCATE ITS NEW YORK
OFFICES. THE COMPLAINT NOTED THAT THE SOVIET REQUEST WAS
MADE THREE MONTHS AGO; THAT, AFTER US "LINKED" DESIRE OF
AMEXCO TO RELOCATE IN MOSCOW TO INTOURIST REQUEST, AMEXCO
HAD BEEN OFFERED NEW PREMISES IN MOSCOW WHICH ARE IN MANY
WAYS SUPERIOR TO ITS PRESENT ONES; AND THAT THE LANDLORD AT
51ST STREET, NEW YORK, ON FEBRUARY 22, INFORMED INTOURIST
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REPS THAT HE WAS NO LONGER INTERESTED IN DOING BUSINESS WITH
THEM. THE COMPLAINT FURTHER SAID THAT, GIVEN DEPARTMENT
INACTION, IT APPEARED THAT US DESIRES THAT INTOURIST BE
EVICTED AS OF APRIL 30, AND THAT US WOULD BEAR FULLY RE-
SPONSIBILITY FOR CONSEQUENCES IF INTOURIST IS LEFT WITHOUT
ALTERNATIVE OFFICE SPACE.

2. EDGAR CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT US DESIRES THAT INTOURIST BE PUT OUT IN STREET, AND EMPHASIZED OUR STRONG INTEREST IN SEEING THAT SUITABLE FACILITIES CAN BE SECURED.

HE SAID IT WAS THE US UNDERSTANDING THAT THE QUESTION WAS ALMOST SETTLED; AMERICAN EXPRESS IS REPORTEDLY SATISFIED WITH THE PREMISES IN MOSCOW WHICH HAVE BEEN OFFERED BUT TO DATE HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF RENT PRICE OR AVAILABILITY DATE. EDGAR SAID THAT ONCE THIS CONFIRMATION HAS BEEN GIVEN AND INTOURIST PROPOSES AN ADDRESS FOR RELOCATION, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE A RAPID DECISION. TREPYKHALIN INDICATED THAT THIS SEEMED SATISFACTORY.

3. COMMENT. AMEXCO NEW YORK REP HANSEN-STURM HAS INDEPENDENTLY CONFIRMED THAT 51ST STREET LANDLORD IS NO LONGER INTERESTED IN RENTING TO INTOURIST. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANY DANGER THAT INTOURIST WILL BE "OUT IN THE STREET," HOWEVER, SINCE HE IS AWARE OF SEVERAL REAL ESTATE BROKERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN RENTING PREMISES AND AMEXCO REAL ESTATE EXPERTS ARE ACTIVELY SCOUTING POSSIBLE SITES FOR INTOURIST. VANCE

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